

T-724

c. 1860

Emily Harrison Rental House  
St. Michaels  
Private

From a basic chain of title it appears Emily Harrison financed at least part of this two-story house before she sold the lot in 1863 to Francis Wrightson for \$450. Emily Harrison evidently financed the construction of the initial dwelling as a rental after she inherited several houses and lots in St. Michaels from her father, Alexander B. Harrison, in 1841. The \$450 transfer price in 1863 indicates the lot was improved with a relatively substantial structure. The property passed through several hands during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In more recent times Louise B. Valliant purchased the house in 1941 and sold it 24 years later to Norman M. and Marian F. Shannahan.

The two-story, ell-shaped dwelling is characteristic of many Civil War era houses with its asymmetrical elevation and two-story porch. Aside from artificial siding, this two-story dwelling has not been altered significantly, and it contributes to the period character of Cherry Street.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-724

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common EMILY HARRISON RENTAL HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number 106 Cherry Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 405

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio 583

city, town Easton state MD 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-724

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Emily Harrison rental house stands at 106 Cherry Street on the southwest corner of Cherry and Locust streets in the northern residential district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, ell-shaped frame dwelling faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1860, the two-story frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is covered with a layer of vinyl weatherboard siding. The medium sloped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story shed roofed service wing.

The north (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a recessed center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. A small baffle-type entrance with a paneled door and four-light sidelights is fitted in the corner of the recessed wall. Sheltering the entrance wall is a two-story porch with square columns on the first floor and turned posts on the second. A second floor door is topped by a multipane transom. The cross-section of the T-plan that faces the Cherry Street is marked by two six-over-six sash windows on each floor. All four windows are hung with louvered shutters. The eave to the roof is slightly extended with short returns at the base.

The west gable end of the main block is covered on the first floor by a square columned wraparound section of the first floor porch. The second floor is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows.

The east side of the house is finished in a similar manner with six-over-six sash windows on each floor. The back of the house is partially covered by the two-story shed roofed wing.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-724

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Emily Harrison rental house, known in more recent years as the Louise B. Valliant house, stands on a corner lot at the intersection of Cherry and Locust streets in northern St. Michaels. The ell-shaped main block dates to around 1860 and is characteristic of many Civil War era houses with its asymmetrical elevation and two-story porch. Aside from artificial siding, this two-story dwelling has not been altered significantly and it contributes to the nineteenth century character of Cherry Street.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

From a basic chain of title it appears Emily Harrison financed at least part of this two-story house before she sold the lot in 1863 to Francis Wrightson for \$450.(70/422) Emily Harrison evidently financed the construction of the dwelling as a rental after she inherited several houses and lots in St. Michaels from her father, Alexander B. Harrison, in 1841. The \$450 transfer price in 1863 indicates the lot was improved with a relatively substantial structure. The property passed through several hands during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In more recent times Louise B. Valliant purchased the house in 1941 and sold it 24 years later to Norman M. and Marian F. Shannahan.

Survey No. T-724

**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing
B			
D			
F			
H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 11/17/89

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town	Westover	state	MD	21871
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

EMILY HARRISON RENTAL HOUSE

T-724

YEAR: 1965 VOL: 405 PAGE: 583 PRICE: \$10,000

FROM: Louise B. Valliant, widow

TO: Norman M. Shannahan, Jr. and Marian F. Shannahan

NOTES: Begins at the NE corner of Laura D. Jesse; runs with Cherry Street E 60' to Locust Street; then S with Locust 120' to the NE corner of former John W. Porter (Conveyed to him by Mary M. Dyott in 1890); then W 60 ' to the SE corner of heirs of Marianna Sears; then N 120' to Cherry Street and the beginning. Conveyed to Valliant by Reddie 1941, 251/485.

YEAR: 1941 VOL: 251 PAGE: 485 PRICE:

FROM: William Reddie

TO: Louise B. Valliant

NOTES: Same description.

Conveyed to Reddie by Harriet McN Antes and Louise B. Valliant 1941, 251/484 (Title Clearance)

Conveyed to Harriet McN Antes and Louise B. Valliant by Reddie 1939, 244/398 (More Title Clearance to add Louise B. Valliant to the deed)

Conveyed to Reddie by Harriet McN Antes 1939, 244/397. (First step in clearance)

Conveyed to Antes by Porter 1938, 242/540.

YEAR: 1938 VOL: 242 PAGE: 543 PRICE:

FROM: John W. Porter

TO: Harriet McN Antes

NOTES: Same description.

To Porter by Willey 1891, 114/356.

1938, 242/540 is a mortgage for \$1,100 to the St. Michaels Bank.

YEAR: 1891 VOL: 114 PAGE: 356 PRICE: \$800

FROM: Charles E. Willey and Martha F. Willey

TO: John W. Porter

NOTES: Same description.

Deed states that this is one of the lots that Charles Willey took at the division of the real estate of Thomas H. Willey 1889, 110/306.

YEAR: 1889 VOL: 110 PAGE: 308 PRICE:

FROM: James A. & Mary M. Dyott; Wm. J. and Deborah A. Keithley

TO: Charles E. Willey

NOTES: There were several pieces of real estate conveyed by this deed. Two parcels are mentioned and described but two pages are missing. The deed to this property is probably on those pages.

YEAR: 1872 VOL: 78 PAGE: 3 PRICE: \$475  
FROM: Daniel E. Chaney  
TO: Thomas H. Willey  
NOTES: Same description. Lot is 60 x 120.  
Conveyed to Chaney by Wrightson 1867, 73/320.

YEAR: 1867 VOL: 73 PAGE: 320 PRICE: \$400  
FROM: Francis A. Wrightson and Ellen Wrightson  
TO: Daniel E. Chaney  
NOTES: The description is faulty. The lot is 60 x 120 but is said to run 60 feet from Cherry Street to Carpenters Alley!

YEAR: 1863 VOL: 70 PAGE: 422 PRICE: \$450  
FROM: Emily Harrison  
TO: Francis Wrightson  
NOTES: Same faulty description. Begins at Arianna Sears (correct) but runs "with Cherry Street 60 feet to Carpenters Alley" an impossibility! This should read - "to Locust Street".

The price paid suggests that there was a structure of some kind on the lot.

For a history of the lot before 1863, see the attached summary.

T-721, T-723, T-724 BEFORE 1848

The lots are part of a 50-acre tract called "Stopper" patented Christopher Stauper in 1668. "Stopper" was declared escheated, resurveyed, and renamed "Joseph's Lot" by Joseph Harrison in 1741. In the resurvey, it was reduced to 31 acres because of earlier overlapping patents. "Harrison's Square" of the St. Michaels survey of 1804 consists almost entirely of "Joseph's Lot", owned by the Harrisons.

From patentee Joseph Harrison (1698-1755) the land descended to Thomas Harrison (1734-1801). He made the first sub-division of the tract when he leased a lot at the foot of Cherry Street to Robert Dodson in 1784.

On the death of Thomas Harrison the property went to his son Joseph (1756-1818). In 1802, Joseph's brother Samuel Harrison (1777-1837) bought from Joseph a block roughly 90 feet wide extending from Talbot Street to the water. It included the future site of Samuel's steam mill (T-561), an existing brick house (T-265), and the future sites of T-271, T-556, T-558, T-721, T-723, and T-724.

Samuel Harrison built his steam mill at the foot of Cherry Street in 1818. He leased a 60-foot square lot on the corner of Cherry and Talbot to Thomas Auld in 1834, and he still owned the brickhouse on the corner of Locust and Cherry Streets (built 1798-1799 by Thomas or Joseph Harrison). The remainder of the property was probably undeveloped.

Samuel Harrison died in 1837. He devised "Canton Farm" (Crooked Intention) to his nephew Alexander Bradford Harrison. The metes and bounds of "Canton" were stated to be in accordance with a resurvey made by Samuel in 1807. This survey has not been seen but it is assumed that the vacant lots on Cherry Street were included with "Canton Farm". This assumption is based on the fact that the lots were not specifically mentioned in the will, either as a bequest or among the properties which were to be sold by John Leeds Kerr.

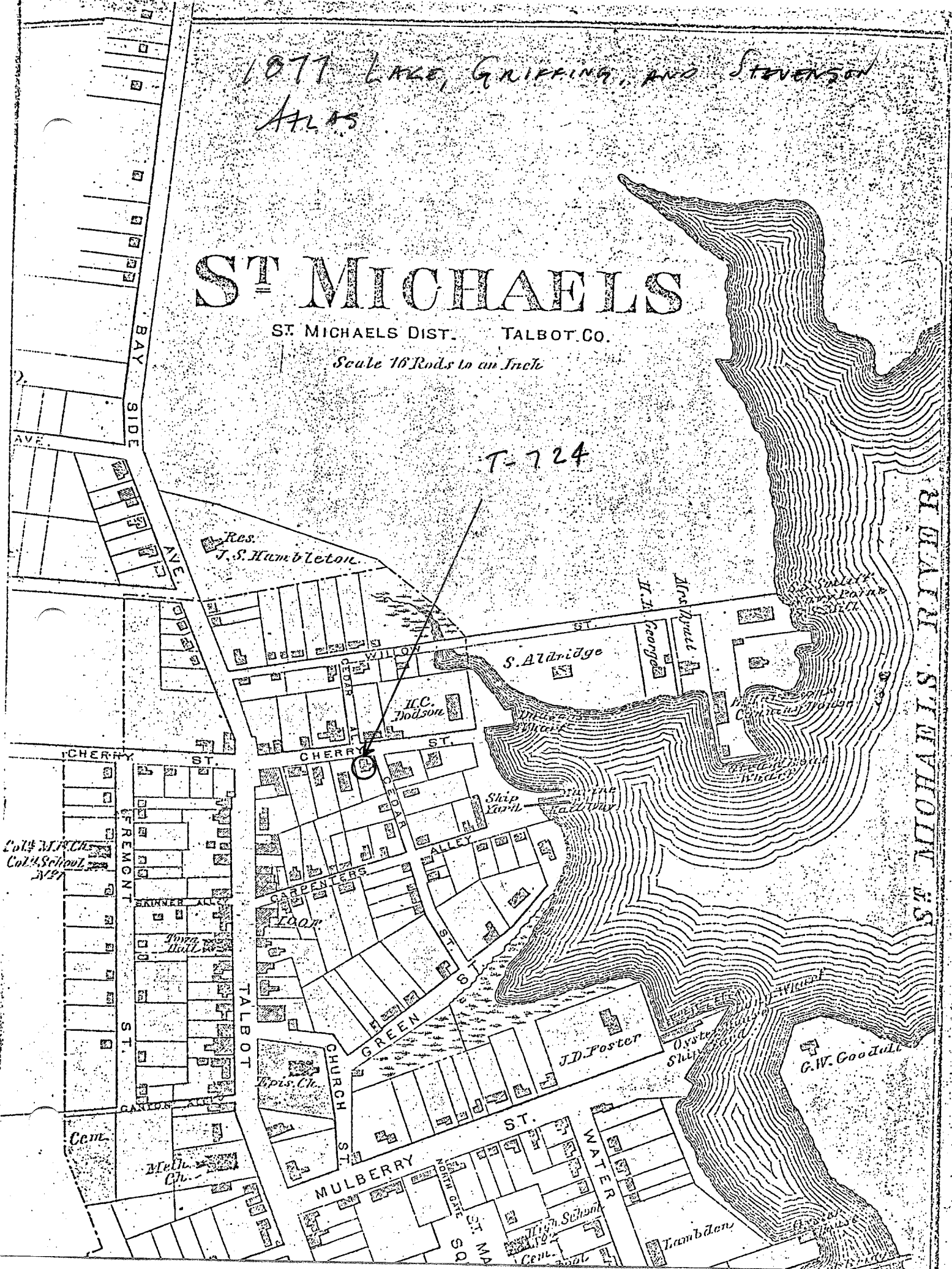
Alexander B. Harrison died in 1841 and by his will left "Canton" to his son Samuel A. Harrison. His daughter Emily Harrison (wife of William Henry Harrison) received "houses and lots in St. Michaels not specifically mentioned elsewhere in the will". It is assumed here that the lots on Cherry Street were among those "not specifically mentioned" left to Emily Harrison. This assumption is supported by the statement in Emily's deed for T-721 which mentions that she received the property by her father's will. Although the statement regarding the will is only made once, all of the other undeveloped lots in the block purchased by Samuel Harrison were leased by Emily Harrison or by her husband, William Henry Harrison between 1848 and 1863. The mention of the will is made in the sale of the fee rights to T-721 made by Emily in 1884.



# ST MICHAEL'S

Scale 16 Rods to an Inch

T-724





T-724  
EMILY HARRISON RENTAL HOUSE  
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle  
1942



T-724

EMILY HARRISON RENTAL HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot Co., MD

Northwest elevation

6/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust